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Photo 14
September 3, 1927

By September 1927, much of the Camas Mill had taken its familiar shape, yet construction was still very much underway. A temporary timber ramp dominates the photograph, rising toward the mill buildings. One worker appears to be seated or crouched near the upper left of the ramp, while another moves carefully along its edge. The ramp itself was never meant to last, but for a time it was an essential part of building the permanent structures behind it.

The mill fills the background with smokestacks, conveyors, and concrete buildings already in operation or nearing completion. Temporary work and permanent construction occupy the same frame, showing how one stage of the project gradually gave way to the next.

The two workers provide a sense of scale and remind us of the conditions under which the mill was built. There are no visible guardrails or safety harnesses—only heavy timbers, careful footing, and the routine confidence of men who spent their days working high above the ground. The slight blur of the nearer figure suggests this was an unposed moment, captured in the middle of an ordinary day's work.